



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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7 WEEKS TO GO UNTIL NOV. 3RD

Campaign '98 Special Report

Editor's note: We're back, rested and ready. We'll begin this special report with an overview of the political situation in Calif., followed by brief updates & analysis of the Governor and U.S. Senate races, including side-by-side polling data...

☒ **Will Clinton's Problems Impact Calif.?** - This is the key question which few insiders have an answer to. But there is no doubt Demos nationwide (and in Calif.) are nervous about Pres. Bill Clinton and what impact the report by Indep. Counsel Ken Starr could have on Demo voter turnout Nov. 3rd. In a recent conference call, about 6 Demo pollsters (many of whom work in Calif.) told the DCCC that so far their polling showed no pattern that Demo turnout will drop below what it normally would be in an off-year election --- where Demo turnout is lower. The key words are so far...

☒ **All Politics Is Local** - Despite what we've just said about turnout, there also are indications that some very hot city & county ballot measures & local races could stimulate voter interest & turnout...

☒ **The Latino Factor** - Latino voters have the ability to swing an election. That's why Dems & GOPers are going all out to win their support in '98. The key question is whether voting trends have already been established in favor of the Demos -- all because of Gov. Pete Wilson & Prop. 187?? Some think the answer is YES, but it won't stop the RNC and CRP from trying to win Latino and other minority voters...

☒ **A Strong Economy** - Despite the recent ups and downs of the stock market and the economic woes in Asia and Russia, the U.S. and Calif. economies remain

strong - which accounts for Bill Clinton's 62% job performance rating in the most current Field Poll. A strong economy also is good news for all incumbents, regardless of party...

☒ **Issues** - Given the stands by Davis & Boxer vs. Lungren & Fong, it's hard to think that abortion won't be one of the key issue of debate in the weeks ahead. Ditto with education, especially given Prop. 1-A, the \$9.2 billion school bond measure on the Nov. 3 ballot. But there is some evidence that GOPers would like to refocus the debate to character, but that could be a two-edged sword...

GOVERNOR'S RACE

...Looking at Republican Dan Lungren's gubernatorial campaign now vs. what it was like in the early spring, there's just not that much difference: the campaign is still drifting without direction. And Lungren's own GOP base isn't that solid. The Field Poll shows 15% of Republicans supporting Davis vs. only 7% of Demos backing Lungren. Both Lungren and Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) have been on tv in selected markets during the summer. Of the two, Davis' message is hitting a responsive chord, while Lungren is still searching. Lungren's team is now trying a new tv spot aimed at Clinton's troubles. As for Davis, he's very focused and his message has been consistent: Lungren is out of step and out of sync with Calif. on key issues. And although Lungren is the better of the two in a debate format, Davis has held his own, with 3 more debates between now and Nov. 3rd...

...Here's what the polling shows. We have 4 polls: Mason/Dixon (7/28 - 832 likely voters); Field (8/24 625 likely voters); Election Connection (9/2 - 607 reg. voters) and the San Jose Mercury News (8/17 - 900 likely voters). The Mercury News survey was

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local in scope, not statewide...

	<u>M/D</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>E/C</u>	<u>M/News</u>
Lungren(R)	39%	37%	33%	24%
Davis(D)	48%	49%	45%	50%

...FYI: in the Field survey, among Latino voters, Davis holds a **62% to 20%** edge over Lungren...

U.S. SENATE RACE

...There's just no doubt that U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer is in for a very tough reelection battle with CA Treasurer Matt Fong(R). And there are some GOP sources who say that while Davis will defeat Lungren for governor, there will be just enough ticket splitting to help Fong defeat Boxer(D). Here's how the two stand in the various polls:

	<u>M/D</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>E/C</u>	<u>M/News</u>
Boxer(D)	43%	45%	40%	48%
Fong(R)	40%	45%	36%	28%

...FYI: in the Field Poll, Boxer loses **16%** of her Demo base to Fong vs. only **10%** of the GOP base supports Boxer. Among Latino voters, Boxer holds a **59%** vs. **25%** edge over Fong...

...The two candidates have very different views on abortion, campaign finance reform & gay rights - with Boxer being in favor and Fong generally opposed. Boxer is more mainstream on these issues than Fong, but Fong has this benign, *nice guy* image which plays well with voters vs. Boxer, who is viewed as partisan. During their first debate, Boxer was much more in control, but the opening questions all centered on Bill Clinton's Monica problem. Boxer was clearly uncomfortable, but part of that discomfort disappeared Sept. 8th when Boxer gave her "I stand with Sen. Joe Lieberman" speech. It was a very necessary speech because there is the perception that Boxer has a double standard (Clinton vs. Packwood) with regard to sexual misconduct. FYI: our sources say the RSCC will take a hard look at this race in mid October. If it's still close, Fong will get the big bucks. Right now Boxer enjoys a substantial fundraising lead over Fong. Stay tuned...

COMMUNICATING WITH CALPEEK WITH E-MAIL.

For those inclined to use it, we do have an E-mail address: calpeek@aol.com. We check our E-Mail 4-5 times a week...

CAMPAIGN '98: PERATA WINS 9th S.D. SPECIAL RACE.

Editor's note: Here's an update on the 9th SD special election which was held Sept. 1st...

...As predicted by most sources, Demo Assemblyman Don Perata of Oakland defeated Alameda Co. Sup. Keith Carson(D) and Assemblywoman Dion Aroner (D-Berkeley) to win the Demo nomination for Barbara Lee's vacated 9th Senate District seat. The turnout was **16.35%**. Perata got 33.28% vs. 31.67% for Aroner. In raw numbers, Perata won by 943 - thanks to his vote by mail(VBM) program. P&F candidate Marsha Feinland, as well as Carson, cut into Aroner's liberal/women base and that cost her. Perata will be in a Nov. 3rd runoff with Feinland and GOPer Deborah Wright...

...**Winners & Losers**: big winner is Senate PPT John Burton and his leadership team. Burton and Perata are long time friends and in Perata, Burton is getting a team playing career pol who is a great fundraiser for Demos. Another winner: the Lockyer/Klehs & Cavala team, which once again backed a winner in Perata and again showed themselves to be *kingmakers* in Alameda Co. Another winner: U.S. Rep. Howard Berman(D-L.A.). Before he teamed up with Lockyer et al, Perata was an operative for Waxman/Berman, thus Howard will have another ally in the Calif. Senate. The **losers**: Assembly Demos will miss Perata's fundraising skills...

CAMPAIGN '98: A FIRST LOOK AT THE ASSEMBLY.

Editor's note: Here is our first update & analysis about the 1998 battle for control of the CA Assembly. In this first update **Calpeek** will look at the *big picture* and in subsequent updates will focus on individual contests...

...The current lineup in the lower house is **43** Demos vs. **37** Republicans. After losing control of the Calif. Assembly in '94 by a 1,000 votes spread between 2 districts, the Dems came back in '96 to recapture control --- by a margin of 2,300 votes spread between 3 districts. And in '96 there were some very tight races: Morrissey(R-69) and Cardoza(D-26) each won by margins of less than 100 votes. And in the 43rd AD, Wildman(D) won by less than 200 votes. And sources expect a repeat of '96, with some very close contests. Of the 80 seats in the Assembly, GOP/Demo sources both agree: there are **34** safe Demo seats and **27** safe GOP seats --- meaning **19 seats** are in the *War Zone*...

...On the GOP side, Assembly Leader Bill Leonard and his campaign team of Assemblymen Dick Ackerman, Scott Baugh, Bill Campbell and Bruce Thompson are hoping for a repeat of '94 --- and given the uncertainty of the political landscape in DC, lightning could strike again. But Assembly GOPers have some problems too: 1) as of the June 30th report, Assembly Demos had a \$4.6 million warchest vs. \$1.6 for the GOP; and 2) privately, some GOP insiders are concerned about Dan Lungren. While it's still early, Lungren's gubernatorial campaign has yet to catch fire. Leonard's chief of staff, Chris Wysocki, is now coordinating the *Assembly Republican Leadership Fund* (aka *Victory Fund '98*). Wysocki comes from Sen. Jim Brulte's staff, so he's an experienced campaign operative. FYI: the GOP has just mailed some **800,000** absentee ballot applications into 25 districts. Gilliard Blanning & Assoc. produced the A/V mailer for Leonard...

...But in Demo consultants Darry Sragow and Michael Galizio, Wysocki will be up against the same experienced team which recaptured the Assembly for the Dems in '96. It was a smart move by Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa and his campaign team of Assemblymembers Fred Keeley, Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley to once again hire Sragow/Galizio to get the Demos "on the same page" for *Campaign '98*...

...**The Key War Zones:** Although sources say there are 19 seats in the *war zone*, when you really look at the lineup, it comes down to this: The **Demos** have to defend 5 incumbents (Wildman, Wayne, Scott, Davis and Havice) and 2 open seats (Bowen's 53rd and Bustamante's 31st). The **GOP** has to defend 3 incumbents (Frusetta, Morrissey and Prenter) and 3 open seats (Firestone's 35th, Kuykendall's 54th and Aguiar's 61st). There are others seats as well that both side will take a look at. More next week. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Lots of new info to pass along, including some new polling data from The Field Poll and from The Election Connection (a new poll by a coalition of 12 news media outlets including KCBS-TV, KCET-TV, KCRW Radio and Santa Rosa Press Democrat). In terms of polling, we'll focus on Prop. 5 this week and cover the others next week...

◆ **Prop. 5** - This is the Indian Gaming initiative sup-

ported by 25-30 Calif. tribes and opposed by a coalition led by casinos & hotels in Nevada, plus an assortment of Calif. business/labor interests. Here's how the latest polling looks. In the first column is the **Mason/Dixon** survey; next is the **Field Poll**; and finally the **Election Connection**. Both Field and E/C show a very high rate of awareness for Prop. 5 - **85%** in the E/C survey. Another interesting point in the E/C survey: only **10%** believed the accuracy of the NO on 5 tv spots vs. more than **50%** who believed the YES on 5 tv ads...

	<u>M/D</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>E/C</u>
YES	53%	53%	54%
NO	31%	28%	29%
Und.	16%	19%	17%

...FYI: Although the CA Legislature finally approved the controversial Pala Indian gaming compact negotiated with Gov. Wilson, sources say that Indian tribes who oppose the compact and support Prop. 5 have taken out papers to require a voter approved referendum on that agreement. In other words, yet another ballot measure. Very interesting --- a perhaps a savvy move by the YES on 5 supporters...

◆ **Prop. 2** - A committee has been formed to support passage of Prop. 2, a constitutional amendment to require any State highway funds borrowed for non-transportation use to be repaid within 1 year. Assemblyman Kevin Murray (D-L.A.) will be the chair of the YES on 2 committee, with John B. Sandman, who chairs *Transportation Calif.*, as the co-chair. Issues Management Network of Culver City will be the campaign consultants, while Larry Fisher (exec. director of *Transportation Calif.*) will be the daily mgr. on #2. There is NO formal opposition as yet. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CITY & COUNTY BALLOT MEASURES.

Editor's note: Here's a brief update on some local ballot measures which will face voters Nov. 3rd...

◆ **City of Los Angeles** - There will be more than **\$1 billion** in bond measures facing L.A. City voters. The most expensive local measure is **#JJ** - a sidewalk bond totaling **\$769.4 million** to cover the cost of repairing 4,620 miles of sidewalk. Then there is **#EE**, a **\$46.5 million** bond for Exposition Park. Mayor Richard Riordan is **OPPOSED** both JJ & EE and sources say his support is critical. FYI: the Howard

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Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. (HJTA) is also opposed to JJ...

...The other two bond measures have a shot. They include a \$178.3 million library bond - #DD, which will be managed by consultant Bill Carrick; and the \$47.6 million zoo bond measure - #CC. The Greater L.A. Zoo Assn. has raised a \$500,000 war chest and they have hired S.F.-based consultant John Whitehurst to run the campaign. All 4 bond measures require a 2/3rds vote...

◆ **Sacto City & County - Measure M** is a proposed 1/4 percent hike in the local sales tax rate - from 7.75% to 8.00% -- with the money going into the general fund (which only requires a majority vote). If approved, the funds will be used to keep city & county law enforcement at its current levels. The Sacto Co. Taxpayers League is taking the lead in opposing M, while Townsend, Raimundo, Besler & Usher will assist the YES side...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ **San Jose Mayor's Race** - A new poll published in the Sept. 6th issue of the San Jose Mercury News shows former County Sup. Ron Gonzales with 33% vs. SJ Councilwoman Pat Dando with 28%. San Jose is Calif.'s 3rd largest city - so this is an important race...

■ **A Calpeek Clarification** - In our Aug. 24th issue, we noted that attorney Anthony Glassman won a 1997 defamation case for his client Al Shugart against Consumer Attorneys of CA, in connection with the Props. 200, 201 & 202 campaign. Consultant Bill Carrick produced the tv spots for the CAOC, but was dropped from that Glassman/Shugart lawsuit...

■ **L.A. Co. Sheriff's Update** - After his campaign team repeatedly told the news media that Lee Baca would not go negative in his effort to unseat incumbent Sheriff Sherman Block, that strategy was tossed out in a recent Century Cable TV debate. Baca called Block "a part-time, isolated sheriff." Baca also went after Block for all the screw ups at the county jail facilities. And **Calpeek** sources say it's now clear from all the negative articles about Block and the Sheriff's Dept. in the L.A. Times - that newspaper will endorse Baca for

November. Late news: State Sen. Hilda Solis(D), who backed Block in the primary, has pulled her endorsement and is now backing Baca. Not a big shock when you consider that her campaign consultant, Parke Skelton, is running Baca's campaign. FYI: the candidates will meet again at the San Gabriel Valley Lincoln Club, 7:30 a.m., Sept. 18, Industry Hills Sheraton Hotel. For info (626)969-1304...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: former Demo Party activist and campaign consultant Elizabeth Snyder, 84, died recently of emphysema. She was the CDP's chairwoman from 1954-56. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Former INS Western chief from 1983-89 and GOP political activist Harold Ezell, who co-authored Prop. 187, died of liver cancer. He was 61 and resided in Orange Co. R.I.P...

● Political advisor Jeff Randle has joined the Sacto office of Stoorza, Ziegaus & Metzger. Randle will continue to manage Gov. Wilson's Prop. 8 campaign...

● Hockaday Donatelli/Campaign Solutions has hired Calif. GOP campaign veteran Helen C. Najar as its west coast operative (562)421-7736. The Alexandria, VA firm specializes in direct mail and internet fundraising...

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